



ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee

Regular Meeting

Agenda

Wednesday, January 17, 2024
12 noon

Orange County Fire Authority
Regional Fire Operations & Training Center
Classroom One
One Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602

Committee Members

Katrina Foley, Chair • Connor Traut, Vice Chair
Ross Chun • Joe Kalmick • Anne Mallari • Donald Wagner • Chris Duncan

NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION

This meeting is open to the public. Committee members will participate in person. There are several alternative ways to make comments including:

In Person Comments at Meeting: Resolution No. 97-024 established rules of decorum for public meetings held by the Orange County Fire Authority. Resolution No. 97-024 is available from the Clerk of the Authority.

Any member of the public may address the Committee on items within their subject matter jurisdiction, but which are not listed on this agenda during PUBLIC COMMENTS. However, no action may be taken on matters that are not part of the posted agenda. We request comments made on the agenda be made at the time the item is considered and that comments be limited to three minutes per person. Please address your comments to the Committee and do not engage in dialogue with individual Board Members, Authority staff, or members of the audience.

If you wish to speak, please complete a Speaker Form identifying which item(s) you wish to address. Please return the completed form to the Clerk of the Authority prior to the item being considered. Speaker Forms are available at the entryway of the meeting location.

E-Comments: Alternatively, you may email your written comments to coa@ocfa.org. E-comments will be provided to the Committee members upon receipt and will be part of the meeting record as long as they are received during or before the Committee takes action on an item. Emails related to an item that are received after the item has been acted upon by the Committee will not be considered.

This Agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action or discussion shall be taken on any item not appearing on the following Agenda. Unless legally privileged, all supporting documents, including staff reports, and any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Committee members after the posting of this agenda are available for review at the Orange County Fire Authority Regional Fire Operations & Training Center, 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA 92602 or you may contact the Clerk of the Authority at (714) 573-6040 Monday through Thursday, and every other Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and available online at <http://www.ocfa.org> under Board & Committee Agendas/Minutes.



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and [Board of Directors policy](#), if you need reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please complete the [ADA Reasonable Accommodation Form](#) available on the Agency's website and email to COA@ocfa.org, or you may contact the Clerk of the Authority at (714) 573-6040 during regular business hours to submit your request orally. Please notify us at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the Authority to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Foley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Director Mallari

ROLL CALL by Clerk of the Authority

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please refer to instructions on how to submit a public comment on Page 1 of this Agenda.

1. PRESENTATION

No items.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters on the consent calendar are considered routine and are to be approved with one motion unless a director or a member of the public requests separate action on a specific item.

A. Minutes for the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee Meeting

Submitted by: Maria Huizar, Clerk of the Authority

The record will reflect that any Director not in attendance at the meeting of the Minutes will be registered as an abstention, unless otherwise indicated.

Recommended Action:

Approve the Minutes for the October 18, 2023, Special Meeting as submitted.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Legislative Quarterly Update

Submitted by: Robert Cortez, Assistant Chief/Business Services Department

Recommended Action:

Receive and file the Legislative Quarterly Update.

B. Public Affairs Annual Report

Submitted by: Matt Olson, Director of Communications

Recommended Action:

Receive and file the report.

REPORT

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT – The next regular meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury and as required by the State of California, Government Code § 54954.2(a), that the foregoing Agenda was posted in the lobby and front gate public display case of the Orange County Fire Authority, Regional Training and Operations Center, 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA, not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK:

- Legislative Quarterly Update
- Public Affairs Quarterly Update

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Executive Committee	Thursday, January 25, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Board of Directors	Thursday, January 25, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Human Resources Committee	Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 12 noon
Operations Committee	Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 12 noon
Budget & Finance Committee	Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 12 noon

MINUTES ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

**Legislative and Public Affairs Committee
Special Meeting
Wednesday, October 18, 2023
1:30 P.M.**

**Regional Fire Operations and Training Center
Classroom One
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602**

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee was called to order on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 1:34 p.m. by Chair Foley.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Chun led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Katrina Foley, County of Orange, Chair
Connor Traut, Buena Park, Vice Chair
Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo
Chris Duncan, San Clemente

Absent: Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach
Anne Hertz-Mallari, Cypress
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange

Also present were:

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy
Assistant Chief Robert Cortez
Assistant Chief Jim Ruane
Assistant Chief Shane Sherwood
Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar

Deputy Chief Lori Zeller
Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco
Director of Communications Matt Olson
Assistant General Counsel Michael Daudt
Jay Barkman, Legislative Affairs Manager

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

1. PRESENTATION

None.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Director Traut and second by Director Chun, approved Agenda Item Nos. 2A-2B 4-0 (Directors Hertz-Mallari, Kalmick and Wagner absent).

A. Minutes for the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee Meeting (FILE 12.02E2)

The record will reflect that any Director not in attendance at the meeting of the Minutes will be registered as an abstention, unless otherwise indicated.

Action: Approve the Minutes for the August 29, 2023, Special Meeting as submitted.

B. 2023 Legislative Summary (FILE 12.02E5)

Action: Review the 2023 Legislative Summary and direct staff to place the item on the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting of October 26, 2023, with the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee's recommendation that the Board receive and file the report and adopt recommended bill position changes as described in the report.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Quarterly Public Affairs Update (FILE 12.02E5)

Communications Director Matt Olson presented an update of the Quarterly Public Affairs. He provided video presentations highlighting the recent Girls Empowerment Camp, Wildland Media Day, and a spot light of Monay Lee, an OCFA female firefighter whose desire at a young age was to work in fire service.

By consensus, the Committee received and filed the report.

B. Proposed Revisions to the Board Rules of Procedure and Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Protocols (FILE 11.03)

Director Foley presented the proposed revisions to the Board Rules of Procedure and Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Protocols.

On motion of Director Foley and second by Director Chun, approved 4-0 (Directors Hertz-Mallari, Kalmick and Wagner absent) to review the proposed revisions to the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Protocols and the Board Rules of Procedure as recommended by the Committee Chair and approved proposed revisions, direct staff to place items on the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting of October 26, 2023, with the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee's recommendation that the Board adopt the recommended revisions to the Board Rules of Procedure.

REPORT

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Duncan reported attending the Santa Ana Winds Preseason Sand Table, a training action plan presentation hosted by Orange County Fire Authority Training and Safety. He noted it was informative for the southern Orange County area.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Foley adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority



Orange County Fire Authority
AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Meeting
January 17, 2023

Agenda Item No. 3A
Discussion Calendar

Legislative Quarterly Update

Contact(s) for Further Information

Robert Cortez, Assistant Chief
Business Services Department

robertcortez@ocfa.org

714.573.6012

Summary

This item is submitted to provide an update on legislative activities.

Prior Board/Committee Action

Not Applicable.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Receive and file the Legislative Quarterly Update.

Impact to Cities/County

Not Applicable.

Fiscal Impact

Not Applicable.

Background

With the legislature back in session, this report provides an initial update on the 2024 legislative calendar year, follow-up on 2024 carryover bills, update on the State's budget deficit, and other relevant legislative and budgetary activity taking place at the State and Federal level. Oral reports from our State and Federal lobbyists will be presented at the committee meeting.

Position recommendations on new proposed bills for the 2024 legislative calendar year will be provided to the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee during its March meeting for consideration.

Attachment(s)

1. Holland & Knight Federal Report – January 2024
2. Nielsen Merksamer State Report – January 2024

Orange County Fire Authority January 2024 Report

Congress

Congress Returns to Washington with Several Pending Items

- Congress left Washington in December for the winter holiday with several pending items to consider when they return this month. On government funding, bipartisan negotiators returned on January 8 with a top-line spending deal that is relatively the same as agreed to last year's debt limit deal.
- While this marks an important milestone in the process, they have a limited runway to finalize the bills, as Congress must meet key funding deadlines of January 19 and February 2 to prevent a government shutdown. Congress will most likely pass another short-term CR to complete its work.
- Additionally, another important issue Congress must act upon prior to September is passage of the Fire Grants and Safety Act that would reauthorize the Assistance to Firefighter and SAFER grant programs that are set to expire on September 30, 2024. The Senate passed their bill (S. 870) last year and is awaiting for action from the House.

Congress Passes NDAA, FEND Off Fentanyl Act Omitted

- Last month, Congress passed the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) bill, reconciling two previously conflicting versions. The defense legislation was the last major bill to pass Congress in 2023.
- The NDAA does not include the bipartisan Fentanyl Eradication and Narcotics Deterrence (FEND) Off Fentanyl Act, which sanctions foreign persons involved in fentanyl trafficking and codifies existing sanctions targeting illicit drug trafficking. The bill was included in the Senate draft but omitted from the House's version and, therefore, was struck from the final version. If included, the FEND Off Fentanyl Act would have been the first major piece of fentanyl legislation passed by Congress.

Administration

President Biden Travels to Philadelphia to Highlight Importance of SAFER Grants

- On December 11, President Biden traveled to Philadelphia to highlight the impact of SAFER Grants. During the event, participants urged Congress to reauthorize the SAFER Grant Program.
- In brief remarks, the President touted his support of SAFER Grants since he was a Senator and asserted that additional firefighters are needed throughout the country. Currently, the

Fire Grants and Safety Act, which reauthorizes the SAFER Grant Program ([S. 870/H.R. 4090](#)), awaits further action in Congress after being passed by the Senate in April.

FEMA Releases 2023 National Preparedness Report

- On Tuesday, December 5th, the Federal Emergency and Management Administration (FEMA) released the 12th annual [National Preparedness Report](#), which highlights the nation’s current disaster preparedness landscape and areas for improvement for the United States to achieve greater disaster resiliency.
- The report highlighted three risk areas for communities nationwide to improve on to increase disaster resiliency:
 - Lack of Standardized Building Code Adoption
 - Vulnerability to Cyberattacks, Pandemics, and Floods
 - Ongoing Individual/Household Disaster Preparedness Gaps

OSHA to Update Standards for Safety and Health Protections for Emergency Responders

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced it would release a new proposed rule this month to ensure first responders, including firefighters, receive additional protections under the “Fire Brigades” standard.
- OSHA claims that the current standard, last updated in 1980, provides narrow protections that are outdated compared to current standards. The proposed rule is expected to address protective clothing and equipment and significantly improve safety and health practices. The rule is also expected to require employers to obtain baseline medical screening for all emergency responders and ensure continued medical surveillance for responders when they are exposed to the byproducts of fires and explosions more than fifteen times annually.
- Once released, interested parties may submit comments to the proposed rule. In addition to the abovementioned changes, the proposed rule is expected to provide additional safety measures for firefighters.

#

OCFA Federal Legislative Update

Lisa Barkovic

January 2024

Holland & Knight

Government Funding Update

- Government funding is operating under two continuing resolutions (CR):
 - January 19, 2024: Transportation-HUD, Energy-Water, Military Construction-VA and Agriculture
 - February 2, 2024: Homeland Security, CJS, Labor-HHS, DOD, Interior-Environment, Legislative Branch, Financial Services and State/Foreign Operations
- Leadership Deal on top-line spending announced on January 7.
 - The topline constitutes \$1.590 trillion for FY24 – the statutory levels of the Fiscal Responsibility Act. That includes \$886 billion for defense and \$704 billion for nondefense.
- While this is a huge step towards completing the FY 2024 appropriations bills, there will be a few bumps still in the road. Most likely will need another short-term CR to provide appropriators time to complete conferencing bills.

OCFA Appropriations

FY 2024 HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS				
	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 President's Request	FY 2024 House	FY 2024 Senate
FEMA – Federal Assistance	\$3,882,014,000	\$3,564,357,000	\$3,740,910,342	\$3,467,115,000
Urban Area Security Initiative	\$615 mil	\$711.184 mil	\$615 mil	\$578.1 mil
Assistance to Firefighter Grants	\$370 mil	\$370 mil	\$360 mil	\$338.4 mil
Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response	\$370 mil	\$370 mil	\$360 mil	\$338.4 mil
Urban Search & Rescue	\$36.7 mil	\$36.7 mil	\$45.832 mil	\$37.832 mil

OCFA Appropriations Continued...

- OCFA was successful in working with Rep. Kim to have an amendment offered to increase funding for the Urban Search & Rescue Program by \$5 million in the House Homeland Security Appropriations bill.
- In 2024, we will continue to work on community project funding requests through the appropriations process.
- FEMA will be opening the next round of AFG and SAFER grants very soon.

Questions?

ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT
PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL

Attachment 2

TO: Robert C. Cortez
Assistant Chief, Business Services
Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA)

VIA PDF E-MAIL

FROM: John Moffatt
Geoff Neill

DATE: December 18, 2023

RE: 2023 Wrap Up/2024 Outlook Report

State Budget Deficit

The state is facing a \$68 billion revenue shortfall for the Governor and Legislature to deal with in its upcoming budget, according to a report from the Legislative Analyst's Office.

Because of the IRS decision to delay income tax deadlines from April 15 to October 15, the deficit is larger than anticipated because state policymakers were not aware of the \$26 billion shortfall in the previous fiscal year when they passed this year's budget, and therefore could neither correct that problem nor accurately forecast reduced 2023-24 revenues. Now they are faced with the problem of solving for deficits from those two fiscal years as well as the budget year (2024-25) all at once.

The LAO notes that the state has substantial reserves, options for reducing school funding, and the ability to reduce one-time funding, but that the Legislature will likely need to also change policies to reduce expenses or raise revenues to fully solve the problem, especially going into future years, where they estimate ongoing annual operating deficits of about \$30 billion.

While recessions are not declared on a subnational level, the LAO also found that the state experienced a downturn in 2022, evidenced by the rising number of unemployed Californians and declines in inflation-adjusted incomes. They also point out that the state's economy is especially sensitive to the Federal Reserve's recent actions and that high interest rates have substantially reduced the number of IPOs, a key source of income tax revenue.

In the meantime, the Department of Finance wasted little time issuing a budget letter on December 13 to all state agencies and departments titled "Current Year Expenditure Freeze". The letter (attached to this report) directs them to take immediate action to reduce spending from the General Fund and to ensure prudent spending from other funds as well. The order includes, as examples, any new contracts to lease or purchase equipment, non-essential IT purchases including cell phones, fleet vehicles that are not mission-critical or emergency-related, office supplies, leave buybacks, and travel. Actions like this have not been seen since state finances were recovering from the devastating effects of the financial crisis over a decade ago.

These circumstances will be a major test for the Legislature, its new leadership teams, and the Governor. Of all of them, only a couple legislators have been involved in trying to solve state deficits of this magnitude.

The next major budget development will be the Governor's initial set of budget proposals, which he will release by January 10, followed by budget committee hearings, the Governor's May Revision, and the Legislature's adoption in mid-June. Much can change in the time from now to then, especially given the Federal Reserve's cautious signals on December 13 that they anticipate pivoting to interest rate cuts in 2024, possibly as early as March.

2024 Carryover Bills

Because 2023 was the first year of the two-year legislative session, bills that failed to pass last year can carry over into 2024, with some restrictive timeframes.

In addition to reviewing newly introduced bills, below are the carryover bills we will be watching in 2024:

AB 294 (Petrie-Norris) – Support

Excludes monies received for costs and losses due to wildfires or natural hazards from the definition of gross income for tax purposes.

Status – Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 296 (Rodriguez) – Support

Establishes the 911 Public Education Campaign under CalOES to educate the public on when it is appropriate to call 911 for assistance.

Status – Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 609 (Papan) – Support

Requires the Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development to consider whether updates are appropriate to CALFIRE and CalOES procedures and deployment protocols to include innovative wildfire technologies.

Status - Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 788 (Petrie-Norris) – Support

Requires the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, on or before July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, to compile and post on its

internet website specified information relating to specified state and federal grant programs relating to fire prevention, as provided.

Status - Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1056 (Davies) – Support

Requires the Department of Parks and Recreation to establish and administer the California Youth Water Safety State Grant.

Status – Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 769 (Gonzalez) – Neutral

Requires, if a local agency provides any type of compensation, salary, or stipend to a member of a legislative body, or provides reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred by a member of a legislative body in the performance of official duties, all local agency officials, as defined, to receive at least two hours of fiscal and financial training, as described. Requires the training to be received at least once every two years, as provided.

Recent amendments to the bill narrow its scope so that it will not apply to OCFA.

Status – Assembly Appropriations Committee.

BUDGET LETTER

	NUMBER: BL 23-27
SUBJECT: CURRENT YEAR EXPENDITURE FREEZE	DATE ISSUED: December 12, 2023
REFERENCES: N/A	SUPERSEDES: N/A

TO: Agency Secretaries
Department Directors
Department Budget and Accounting Officers
Departmental Human Resources and Labor Relations Officers
Departmental Business Services Officers
Department of Finance Budget and Accounting Staff

FROM: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Budget Officers are requested to forward a copy of this budget letter (BL) to departmental Human Resources, Labor Relations, and Business Services Officers.

The State of California anticipates significant General Fund budget deficits in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25. Accordingly, this BL directs all entities under the Governor's direct executive authority to take immediate action to reduce current-year General Fund expenditures. Departments shall also take measures to ensure more prudent spending from other state funds given the fiscal outlook. Statewide Constitutional Officers are strongly encouraged to comply with the provisions of this BL.

It is vitally important that state government is efficient, effective, and only expends funds that are necessary to the critical operation and security of the state. As such, all state entities must take immediate action to reduce expenditures and identify all operational savings achieved. These immediate actions consist of, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- **New Goods and Services Contracts**—Departments shall not enter into any new contracts or agreements to lease or purchase equipment, issue purchase orders for goods or services, or make changes to existing contracts if the change would increase costs, except to meet a time-sensitive or critical need.
- **IT Equipment**—All discretionary and non-essential IT purchases, unless specifically related to a critical IT security need or a mission-critical need, shall be halted. This includes all planned IT equipment refreshes, copier or printer replacements, or any new equipment purchases (e.g., cell phone refreshes).
- **Fleet Vehicles**—Only mission-critical or emergency-related vehicles shall be purchased. All other planned vehicle replacements should be halted.

- **Office Supplies**—Minimal office supplies shall be ordered and kept in stock. Each department's purchasing managers should heavily scrutinize all office supply orders to ensure the need. Departments shall, to the extent possible, use all existing supplies before additional supplies are ordered.
- **Other**—All areas of department operations shall be evaluated and scrutinized to decrease costs including, but not limited to, subscription renewals, training costs, or furniture purchases.
- **Travel**—State entities shall cancel all plans for non-essential travel, such as participation in seminars, conferences, and training both in-state and out-of-state. Only travel that is **required** for the conduct of official state business is allowed.
- **Leave Buy-Back**—The annual leave buy-back of accrued vacation or annual leave in 2023-24, including for excluded employees is cancelled. An exception is noted for Bargaining Unit 6.
- **Architectural Revolving Fund (ARF)**—State entities shall delay or defer any requests to transfer funds to the ARF unless for a demonstrated critical need due to an ongoing project.

Additionally, entities shall re-evaluate expenses related to current IT projects:

- Review existing IT maintenance and operations contracts to validate services, subscriptions, equipment, and /or software licenses are still in use and necessary. Any items not meeting that criteria shall be terminated.
- Review pending procurement/solicitations to determine if the effort can be paused or delayed.
- Reevaluate any IT projects in the Project Approval Lifecycle process to determine if the project can be paused or delayed.
- If necessary to continue efforts, consider whether costs can be spread over several years or if financing is a viable option.

Agency Secretaries and Cabinet-level Directors are authorized to make exemptions from these prohibitions only in the following limited instances:

- Addressing a declared emergency.
- Providing 24-hour medical care.
- Avoiding a significant revenue loss.
- Achieving significant net cost savings.

Lastly, Agency Secretaries and Cabinet-level Directors will be required to report monthly to Finance and the Governor's Office on all approved exemptions as well as achieved savings. Reporting instructions will be sent via a subsequent BL.

If you have any questions regarding this BL, please contact your assigned Program Budget Manager.

/s/ Joe Stephenshaw

JOE STEPHENSHAW

Director



Orange County Fire Authority
AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Meeting
January 17, 2024

Agenda Item No. 3B
Discussion Calendar

Public Affairs Annual Report

Contact(s) for Further Information

Matt Olson
Director of Communications

MattOlson@ocfa.org

714.573.6028

Summary

This item is submitted to provide a year-end recap of OCFA public affairs programs and analytics that will be presented to the committee.

Prior Board/Committee Action

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Receive and file the report.

Impact to Cities/County

Not Applicable.

Fiscal Impact

Not Applicable.

Background

Over the past year, Corporate Communications has implemented various innovative strategies to engage, educate, and inform the communities we serve. This includes the agency's first Wildland Media Training Day, second annual Holiday Video, the first Open House in three years, and various other endeavors that resulted in thousands of news articles, radio spots, social media campaigns, and TV clips that garnered millions of impressions, views, and engagements. These and various other 2023 Public Affairs points of pride will be shared via a year-end recap "Sizzle Reel," followed by a short presentation on a handful of our upcoming 2024 projects.

Attachment(s)

None.